tion." Again: "No candidate should obtain a certificate who does not show a good command of English and the power of writing it intelligently." If to this were added the power of reading English intelligently, which implies a knowledge of the meaning of a number of words in common use under the headings of geography, history, and general science, and, finally, the power of doing simple arithmetic, is it not conceivable that a candidate possessing these three powers might be thought fit to continue his studies at any university of the realm?

NOTES.

BOTANISTS in Great Britain have been considering the practicability of holding an Imperial Botanical Congress in London at which botanists from the overseas Dominions might meet their colleagues at home for the discussion of matters of common interest. Many subjects are ripe for discussion, such as the methods of training botanists for service abroad, the relation between the pure science and its applications and between the botanist and the commercial men interested in industries in which botanical knowledge should play an important part, more helpful co-operation between the home and the overseas botanist, botanical surveys of overseas Dominions, and others. After careful consideration it has been decided that it would be inadvisable to hold such a congress during the present year.

M. LUCIEN POINCARÉ, Vice-Rector of the University of Paris, will be entertained at dinner by the Groupe Inter-Universitaire Franco-Britannique on Monday, February 23. The dinner is being organised in connection with the formal opening of the British Bureau of the Office National des Universités et Ecoles Françaises by M. Poincaré. The chair will be taken by M. Petit-Dutaillis, Director of the Office National. Amongst the members who have intimated their intention of being present are his Excellency the Belgian Ambassador, his Excellency the Greek Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Reading, Viscount Burnham, the Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher (President of the Board of Education), the American Consul-General, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

THE anniversary of Sir Francis Galton's birth, February 16, was celebrated by the Eugenics Education Society as usual this year. Prof. Arthur Keith delivered the Galton lecture, and this was preceded by a dinner at the Connaught Rooms. These annual gatherings have been held since 1914 in every year but one, when war conditions stood in the way. In his interesting lecture, which will be printed in full in the next issue of the *Eugenics Review*, Prof. Keith gave a sketch of Galton's life in so far as it affected his work, and a broad and general account of his investigations and theories. The main thought running through his address was that Galton's work had not been adequately appreciated during his life, and that his reputation would increase as time went on. In Galton's day anthropologists concentrated their attention on the individual man, whilst it was equally necessary to consider the distribution of men according to their qualities. Hence Galton's teachings made slow progress because they fell on unprepared ground, whereas in the future he would come to be recognised as one of the greatest men of science produced in England during the nineteenth century. Major Leonard Darwin was in the chair, and said that Galton always had practical aims in view and always had the courage of his opinions. If ever the *name* of eugenics came to be captured by cranks it would be because scientific men did not follow his example, and, through fear of contact with cranks, gave this important subject lukewarm support. The *science* of eugenics could never suffer in this way, because it was founded on indisputable truths. The proceedings terminated by a vote of thanks moved by Sir Robert Blair and seconded by the Dean of St. Paul's.

AT the National Conference of Manufacturers and Producers, held at Kingsway Hall on February 11, Sir Robert Hadfield, representing the Federation of British Industries, proposed a resolution appreciating the work of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and strongly urging all manufacturers, either individually or collectively by trades, to organise and maintain research facilities. In the course of his remarks Sir Robert Hadfield affirmed that science and industry are now in indissoluble partnership, and that further steps should be taken to organise research more thoroughly and efficiently than has been done in the past. We must recognise that, in these days of international competition, the prosperity of every British manufacturer and trader is bound up with that of British trade as a whole, and hence research must be regarded as a national rather than as an individual matter. While admitting the necessity for, and the value of, the research work done by big firms along the lines of their special activities, Sir Robert Hadfield pointed out that there are also a number of questions affecting whole industries the solution of which can be obtained only by the co-operation of many workers investigating special branches of the subject. In these cases everything is to be gained by carrying on the work of research in combination and making its results available to the whole of the organised industry. This is what the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research enables to be better accomplished, at any rate in certain trades and lines of work.

THE third annual Silvanus Thompson memorial lecture of the Röntgen Society will be delivered by Prof. W. H. Bragg in the Barnes Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, at 8 o'clock on Tuesday, March 2. The subject will be "Analysis by X-rays." Admission will be free.

PROF. A. DEPAGE (University of Brussels), Drs. Pierre Duval and A. Gosset (Paris), Prof. J. M. T. Finney (Johns Hopkins University), and Dr. Charles H. Mayo (Rochester, U.S.A.) have been elected honorary fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

At the recent annual general meeting of the Optical Society Mr. R. S. Whipple was elected to the presidency; Prof. F. J. Cheshire, Sir Herbert Jackson, and Mr. H. F. Purser were elected vice-presidents; Mr. I. G. Aitchison, hon. treasurer; Mr. J. H. Sutcliffe, hon. librarian; and Messrs. W. Shackleton and L. C. Martin, hon. secretaries.

The following officers and council of the Malacological Society of London for 1920 were elected at the annual meeting on February 13:—*President:* G. K. Gude. *Vice-Presidents:* H. O. N. Shaw, T. Iredale, J. R. le B. Tomlin, and A. S. Kennard. *Treasurer:* R. Bullen Newton. *Editor:* B. B. Woodward. *Secretary:* A. E. Salisbury. *Other Members of Council:* A. Reynell, C. Oldham, Major M. Connolly, H. Woods, the Rev. A. H. Cooke, and H. H. Bloomer.

The following officers and members of council of the Royal Astronomical Society were elected at the anniversary meeting on February 13:— *President:* Prof. A. Fowler. *Vice-Presidents:* Sir F. W. Dyson, Prof. A. S. Eddington, Major P. A. MacMahon, and Prof. H. F. Newall. *Treasurer:* Mr. E. B. Knobel. *Secretaries:* Dr. A. C. D. Crommelin and the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips. *Foreign Secretary:* Prof. H. H. Turner. *Council:* Prof. A. E. Conrady, Dr. J. L. E. Dreyer, Dr. J. W. L. Glaisher, Mr. J. Jackson, Dr. Harold Jeffreys, Mr. H. S. Jones, Prof. F. A. Lindemann, Mr. E. W. Maunder, Dr. W. H. Maw, Prof. J. W. Nicholson, Mr. J. H. Reynolds, and Lt.-Col. F. J. M. Stratton.

The war memorial of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy is to be a sculptured figure, to be placed in the house of the institution, and a record of those who served in his Majesty's Forces. The full scope of the memorial cannot be decided until the council knows the extent of the response to an appeal now being made, but it is hoped that a fund of about 4000*l.* may be available. A member of the institution, Lt.-Col. Peter N. Nissen, has prepared a design for the figure, which has been accepted, as has also his offer to model the figure and friezes. These will be executed in bronze and the pedestal-base in malachite, with four silver-alloy plates upon which an appropriate inscription and the roll of honour will be engraved. This work is already in progress. Members of the institution and others interested in the mining industry are invited to contribute to the war memorial fund. Subscriptions should be sent to the secretary of the institution, 1 Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.2.

The report printed in Nature of January 8, presented by the Joint Committee of the British Medical Association and the British Science Guild, regarding awards for medical discovery is published in the Journal of the British Science Guild for January. Advances in medical treatment of great value to humanity frequently convey no additional remuneration to the discoverers, and may even involve monetary loss, and it is suggested that rewards should suffice to meet this latter contingency. The principle was accepted by Parliament in the case of Jenner in 1802 and 1807, but the 60,000*l.* annually disbursed by the Government under the Medical Research Committee subsidises only investigations in progress, and not discoveries already made. Honours, medals, and prizes bestowed by H.M. the King or public bodies are acts of grace falling outside the consideration of the committee, which deals with pecuniary reward. It is accordingly recommended that Parliament should provide an annual sum of not less than 20,000*l.*, enabling pensions amounting to between 500*l.* and 1000*l.* a year to be awarded as compensation for losses incurred in achieving medical discoveries.

The annual general meeting of the Institute of Metals will be held in the building of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Westminster, on Thursday and Friday, March 11 and 12, under the presidency of Prof. H. C. H. Carpenter. The president-designate is Engineer Vice-Admiral Sir George Goodwin, K.C.B. The following are among the communications to be submitted:—Fifth Report to the Corrosion Research Committee, Dr. G. D. Bengough, R. M. Jones, and Ruth Pirret; The Action on Aluminium of Hard Industrial Waters, Dr. R. Seligman and Percy Williams; Zinc Alloys with Aluminium and Copper, Dr. W. Rosenhain, J. L. Haughton, and Kathleen Bingham; Tin-Phosphorus Alloys, A. C. Vivian; Effect of Hydrogen on Copper, W. C. Hothersall and E. L. Rhead; Influence of Cold Rolling on the Physical Properties of Copper, F. Johnson; Study of Thermal Electromotive Force as an Aid to the Investigation of the Constitution of Alloy Systems, J. L. Haughton; and Idiomorphic Crystals of Electro-deposited Copper, W. E. Hughes. On June 10 (not on May 5, as previously announced) Prof. Carl A. F. Benedicks, of Stockholm, Sweden, will deliver the tenth May lecture, his subject being "Recent Progress in Thermo-electricity."

By the death of Dr. Vincent Arthur Smith at Oxford on February 6 India has lost an eminent historian, archæologist, and numismatist. Born in Dublin in 1848, Dr. Smith was educated at Trinity College in that city, and passed thence into the Bengal Civil Service in 1871, being posted to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. He served in this Province until 1900, passing through all the grades of the Service, his last appointments being those of Magistrate-Collector, District Judge, Commissioner, and Secretary to Government. During his service he paid much attention to the local history, archæology, and numismatics, and contributed numerous papers on these subjects to the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and to the *Indian Antiquary*. On his retirement he devoted his life to historical literature, and wrote a series of valuable works. In "The Early History of India" Dr. Smith for the first time evoked order from chaos, and established the chronology, hitherto uncertain, on a firm basis. This was followed by "The History of Fine Art in India and Ceylon," biographies of Asoka, the Buddhist Emperor, and of Akbar, the Great Mogul, and the Oxford "History of India," from the earliest period down to the present day, which appeared only a few months before his death. In numismatics he investigated the series of Gupta coins, and catalogued the collection of Indian coins in the

Calcutta Museum. Dr. Smith leaves many friends, to whom he was always ready to impart his wide stores of learning, and the charm of his personality will be to them a lasting memory.

AN account of the mammals collected in Eastern Cuba during 1917 by Dr. H. E. Anthony appears in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History (vol. xli., art. xx.). Though but a brief preliminary survey of the material collected, this contribution is one of very considerable interest. It forms, indeed, the complement to Dr. Anthony's recent memoir on the indigenous mammals of Porto Rico, living and extinct. Two species of that extinct and extremely primitive insectivore Nesophontes were found, and one of these is new to science. This he has named *Nesophontes longirostris.* The other species, *N. micrus,* bears a close resemblance to *N. edithae* of Porto Rico. Of the Hutias (Capromys), which occur also in Jamaica and Porto Rico, two species were obtained, and several species of bats. All the remains found were from caves, and it would seem that they were deposited in the form of "castings" from the barn-owl. This is a point of some interest, since it helps to explain the great accumulations of small mammal bones found in similar situations in other parts of the world.

THE Archives of the Cambridge Forestry Association for 1919 is a brief pamphlet recording the progress of this society since its foundation in October last. The members are mainly past and present students of the School of Forestry, who meet together to promote research and to render assistance in various ways to this important teaching centre. The secretary invites contributions of apparatus, specimens, books, and periodicals to the museum, which is worthy of support, as it already contains a remarkably fine collection of foreign and home timbers, as well as many instructive objects and photographs, illustrating the uses of wood and the diseases, defects, and abnormalities of trees. The income of the school is very meagre, amounting in 1919 to only 576*l.* 13*s.*, a sum insufficient to pay salaries and incidental expenses, there being an actual deficit of 123*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* From this it is evident that there are no funds available for the purchase of apparatus or specimens. The lists of desiderata and of recent additions to the collection given in the pamphlet ought to stimulate donations to the School of Forestry at Cambridge. The other contents consist chiefly of short notes on various objects in the museum, with an account at some length of experiments on the swelling and shrinkage of wood which have been carried out recently by Mr. Herbert Stone. Forestry has lately attracted a great number of students to the universities where the subject is taught, and societies similar to that at Cambridge have been founded during the past year also at Oxford and Edinburgh.

THE folding and faulting that characterise the Rocky Mountain belt in Alberta are well shown in the small coloured sections accompanying Memoir 112 of the Geological Survey of Canada (1919) by Mr. J. S. Stewart. The contrast between the region uplifted in Early Eocene times by the "Laramide revolution" and the level or undulating Cretaceous strata to the east is as marked as that between the Juras and the Paris basin. The Oligocene beds in this eastern region represent the river-outwash from the Laramide surface of denudation, and subaerial action in succeeding ages has dissected the country to depths of 2000 ft.

DR. CHARLES SCHUCHERT (Bull. Geol. Soc. America, vol. xxix., p. 245, 1918) reviews the stratigraphical position of the American Morrison and the East African Tendaguru formations, which are rich in Dinosaurs. He retains the former in the Jurassic, while suggesting a break in the latter, the lower Dinosaur zone in East Africa being Early Jurassic, and the two main later zones bridging the time from Jurassic to Cretaceous. The discovery of great sauropod Dinosaurs in the south of the late German colony in East Africa dates only from Fraas's work in 1907, and the importance of the deposits is greatly enhanced by the evidence as to age given by the intercalation of strata with marine molluscs. A recent communication to Dr. Schuchert from Prof. Branca in Berlin is mentioned, and may be welcomed as one of the signs of a *rapprochement* between scientific workers.

BULLETIN 688 of the United States Geological Survey, on "The Oilfields of Allen County, Kentucky," contains a neat little coloured geological map on the scale of 1/1,000,000 of a very much wider and a very interesting area of oil-producing country in Kentucky and Tennessee, west of the Alleghany range. The folded strata of the great range are included at the south-east angle. The authors, Messrs. Shaw and Mather, describe the occurrences of what are known as oil "sands"—that is, oil accumulations in a variety of rocks in strata of Silurian, Devonian, and Carboniferous age—and believe the original source to have been mainly decaying vegetation. The country dealt with in detail is mainly a gently undulating plainland, with lakelets in sink-holes caused by the solution of the underlying St. Louis limestone, an important stratum of Lower Carboniferous age. The prospector, whose zeal for the discovery of anticlines is now known even on the Stock Exchange, is warned of the occurrence of "pseudo-anticlines" (which, by the way, are true anticlines for the geologist), due to local features of surface-slip and solution.

THERE is something fascinating in looking across the Hudson from the higher platforms of New York City, and seeing in the uplands of New Jersey the foothills of a country that "needs no embellishment, for in the woods, the streams, the waterfalls, and mountain outlooks Nature has provided the best." We quote from the Report of the Department of Conservation and Development of New Jersey for 1918 (published 1919), which presents a model record of local government and local watchfulness. The director, Mr. Alfred Gaskill, may well be proud of his Department, which has, perhaps, its nearest counterpart in our islands in the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. One of Mr. Gaskill's Boards proposes the reservation of a mountain-park, where summer camps and children's playgrounds can flourish along thirty-six miles of practically uninhabited country; the geological division conducts soil surveys in lands where profitable patches require indication; it also presides over matters of water-supply, and, curiously enough, over the State Museum, with its permanent and loan educational collections; and the forestry division furnishes admirable illustrations of trees in relation to highways, and of the necessity for maintaining its reserves. It is characteristic, and due to climatic conditions, that the Fire Warden's report should be a considerable feature in this attractive little volume. The use of glauconitic marl as a source of potash is now in the hands of the Spilsbury Engineering Co., of New York, which proposes to produce 100 tons a day of a chemical extract the nature of which is not specified.

FROM Freiburg-im-Breisgau, the picturesque Rhine town that so often suffered in return for the savagery of German air-raids, there comes once more the *Berichte* of the local *naturforschende Gesellschaft* (Bd. xxii., Heft 1, 1919), which in happier years maintained our scientific knowledge of the Rhinelands. This part is devoted to a fourfold disquisition ("Vier Kapitel") by Prof. W. Deecke on petrographic subjects, the first section being on "Konglomeratbildung." A number of points commonly overlooked in teaching are shrewdly emphasised, such as the necessity for a hollow of erosion or of sinking for the accumulation of a big pebbly mass, and for some form of almost contemporaneous cementation if the conglomerate is ultimately to be preserved. In the section on the "Diagenesis" of sediments Prof. Deecke points out that under varying conditions subaqueous sediments are preserved from remote ages as loose material (the sands with bucklered ganoids of Dorpat are an instance), or as consolidated and resisting rocks. The influence of heat and pressure on gels in the interstices between the grains leads to firm cementation, as when iron hydrates pass into magnetite, and garnet develops from calcium carbonate, quartz, and kaolin by removal of water from the mixture. Next, the mystic words of Suess, "Sal" and "Sima," are critically discussed; the author remarks that there is a "good form" even among geologists (do we not know it in university circles?), which maintains the use of such terms beyond their true importance. Dr. Holtedahl's essay on these magmas was referred to in NATURE of January 29, p. 574. Lastly, we have an excellent review of fossil reef-formation, in which the tendency of similar conditions to produce similar groupings of animal types is excellently impressed upon us.

ENGLISH mining engineers may be interested to find that the flotation process is beginning to attract attention in France, as is shown by a lengthy article on the subject in the *Revue générale des Sciences* for January 15, though it must be admitted that the information therein given is far from being either up-to-date or quite trustworthy. It seems curious that so recent an article should make no mention of Sulman's important contribution to the theory of flotation read before a meeting of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy in November last, the French author being apparently quite unaware of it. It is strange to read two months after the publication of so exhaustive a treatment of the subject that "the time still appears far distant when a theory capable of explaining the observed phenomena can be established." Whilst his knowledge of the theory of the process is thus defective, the author of the article in question commits not a few errors in regard to its technology. It is scarcely correct to say that flotation is applicable only to ores carrying sulphides, and English readers will be interested to learn that the Murex process is stated to have been devised by an inventor of that name!

THE Canadian Department of Mines has issued the statistics of the mineral production of Canada for 1918 in two reports, one devoted to coal and coke, the other to the metals. The former is, perhaps, the more interesting in view of the immense importance to the whole world of coal output at the present moment. It is pointed out that the term "coal production" is used in a perfectly definite sense, namely, the total of coal sold *plus* coal used by the producers, and this must not be lost sight of in comparing Canadian production with that of other countries, *e.g.* Britain, which latter includes coal lost or unsaleable and coal put into stock. The Canadian production was 13,373,148 statute tons, as compared with 12,541,749 tons in 1917; there were employed 25,419 men, whose average earnings for the year were 1294 dollars (or 270*l.* at par), equal to 2.46 dollars or 10*s.* 3*d.* per ton. It should be specially noted that the output per man was 526 tons for the year—a figure that contrasts most favourably with the British figures. The colliery consumption and coal supplied to workmen amounted to 9·6 per cent. of the production. Of the more important metals, the copper production was 118,769,434 lb., the highest ever attained; the production of lead was 51,398,002 lb., the highest since 1906; of nickel, 92,507,293 lb., the highest ever recorded; the silver production was 21,383,979 oz., a falling-off of 3·7 per cent. as compared with 1917; and the gold-production was 699,681 oz., or 5·3 per cent. below that of 1917.

MAURITIUS meteorological, magnetical, and seismological records are issued in the monthly and annual reports of the Royal Alfred Observatory, under the directorship of Mr. A. Walter. The annual report for 1918 and the monthly reports to August, 1919, have been received. Continuous photographic registration is made of atmospheric pressure, temperature of the air and evaporation, and automatic registration of direction and velocity of wind, of rainfall, and of bright sunshine. The photographic registrations have been checked at regular intervals by eye observations, and daily observations are made of terrestrial radiation and of thermometers ranging from 3 in. to 118 in. below the surface soil. Monthly, quarterly, and yearly departures from the normal are given for the several elements. In 1918 the temperature of the air was below the normal in all months except December. The defect was marked in July, August, and September. During 1918 a daily journal of the weather over the Indian Ocean was kept by means of observations obtained from ships' log-books. The logs of sixty voyages were copied. So far as is known, there were five cyclones in the South Indian Ocean during the year 1918. The daily records of observations published each month are of considerable value in adding to our knowledge of the physics of the globe. Epochs of diurnal range are regularly shown by the several instruments. The velocity of the wind at the Mauritius Observatory is seen to increase very regularly at the midday hours and to fall off during the night, the range frequently being shown even on days when the normal trade winds are interrupted. The seismograms record sixty-seven earthquakes during 1918.

THE January number of the "Abstracts of Papers" issued by the Institution of Civil Engineers contains 235 pages, twelve of which are devoted to name and subject indexes. The abstracts, of which there are 387, are classified under the six heads: Measurement, Materials, Structures, Distribution of Energy, Appliances, and Specialised Practice. Each head is, as a rule, subdivided into sections. It is impossible to read through the abstracts without realising the importance to the future of the engineering profession in this country of a knowledge of the progress which is taking place in the practice of engineering throughout the world. From the number of abstracts devoted to it, the question of fuel economy appears to have been taken up with vigour in America and in Germany. In the former country the use and advantages of pulverised low-grade coal have been investigated, and it appears that 75 to 80 per cent. efficiencies can be obtained with it in boilers of all sizes. In Germany the utilisation of the waste heat from iron and steel furnaces to generate steam in boilers is being strongly advocated as the best form of economy.

THE reviewer of part i. of "The *Daily Telegraph* Victory Atlas of the World," in NATURE of November 13, 1919, remarked, towards the end of a favourable notice: "The changes due to the Peace Treaty are incorporated, but a mistake is made in the area of the Slesvig plebiscite." The publishers of the map, Messrs. Geographia, Ltd., wrote at the time to say that the boundary shown on their map was correct. The reviewer's comment, as stated in our issue of December 25, p. 419, was based upon the abstract of the Treaty of Versailles, and the recent publication of the Treaty has enabled him to compare its wording with the large-scale map of Slesvig. He now writes to acknowledge the correctness of Messrs. Geographia's map in this respect, and to apologise for his mistake. We on our part much regret that, on a point of fact, a review in our columns should have contained a statement which now proves to be in error, and that, in consequence, the accuracy of a particular frontier line on Messrs Geographia's production was wrongly questioned.

MESSRS. W. HEFFER AND SONS, LTD., Cambridge, have in the press "The Theory of Direct-current Dynamos and Motors: A Text-book for University Students of Electrical Engineering," by J. Case, which has been written to fill the gap between books of general electrical engineering and the specialised ones dealing with designs. The aim has been to furnish the student with a fairly comprehensive study of the principles and theories underlying the design of direct-current dynamos and motors, and the work will contain many worked examples; also exercises for the student. The notation adopted is that of the International Electrotechnical Commission.

MR. C. BAKER'S classified list (No. 68) of second-hand scientific instruments includes in one of its sections a number of microscopes and accessories which should be of particular interest at the present time to students and other workers. There are also sections on surveying and astronomical instruments, spectroscopes and projection apparatus, and other instruments.

MR. L. T. HOGBEN wishes to direct attention to an omission in the abstract of his Royal Society paper, "Studies in Synapsis," i., reprinted in NATURE of February 12 (p. 649). He does not conclude that abortive spindles characterise the Hymenoptera in general, but only the Hymenoptera parasitica.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

MERCURY AS AN EVENING STAR.—This planet will reach its greatest easterly elongation (18° 11′) on March 3, and set at about that date rather more than an hour and three-quarters after the sun. This will be the most favourable period of the year for viewing Mercury in the evenings. The intending observer should look towards the east-by-south region of the horizon, and when the atmosphere is clear the planet will be seen about an hour after sunset at a low altitude. It will set on February 26 at 7·5 p.m., on March 4 at 7·31 p.m., and on March 11 at 7·23 p.m.

CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.—At the annual general meeting of this society held on February 13, the president, Prof. A. Fowler, gave an address on the foundation of the society just a century before. The four men who were most influential in its formation were the Rev. William Pearson, Mr. Francis Baily, Sir John F. W. Herschel, and Mr. Charles Babbage. The two latter both lived until 1871, and there are no fewer than fifteen surviving fellows whose fellowships overlapped with theirs. One of these, Mr. Inwards, said that he remembered speaking to Sir John Herschel at a meeting of the society. There was at first a good deal of opposition to the new society on the part of the Royal Society, and the Duke of Somerset, who was elected the first president, quickly resigned this office owing to the pressure brought to bear upon him. He was succeeded after an interval by Sir William Herschel, who was then eighty-two years of age, and died in 1822. Mr. Stephen Groombridge, well known for his Star Catalogue, was another of the original members. They were not called fellows until 1830, when the Royal Charter was granted, giving the society its present title; it was previously called the London Astronomical Society. The earliest publications of the Society were in the form of memoirs; the Monthly Notices did not commence until several years later, and were at first only small pamphlets containing ephemerides of comets and other matters of transient interest.